

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

The following is a response to an Election of Species Requirement mailed on March 15, 2005 and a Preliminary Amendment amending the specification as described above. Claims 1-33 are pending and under consideration.

II. RESPONSE TO MARCH 15, 2005 ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT:

In reply to the March 15, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the species designated by the Examiner as Embodiment 1, shown in Fig. 3A-3B, Claims 1-4, 6, 11, and 12, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining Species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

III. AMENDMENT OF SPECIFICATION


This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed. Specifically, as illustrated above, the amended portions of the specification more clearly describe Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the specification be entered.

IV. CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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